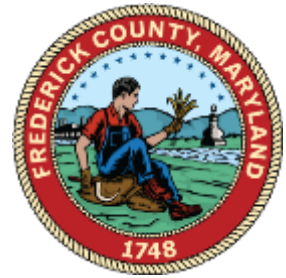




## Frederick County Sustainability Commission

### Meeting Minutes for

7/20/16



**FCSC Attendees:** Tom Anderson, Rachel Armistead, Jennifer Bird, John Ferri, Annie Jones, Ron Kaltenbaugh, Liz Peterson, Joe Richardson, Kevin Sellner, Mike Swanson

**OSER:** Shannon Moore

**Public:** Jerry Donald (County Council), Martha Bush, Mary-Ann Brodie-Ennis, Rich Maranto, Sylvia Carigan, Alysia Feuer

#### I. Welcome

- A. The Chair (Tom Anderson) welcomed all FCSC members and guests.
- B. Election of new officers
  - 1. The chair requested any additional nominations. Jennifer Bird is running for Secretary. Ron Kaltenbaugh is running for Vice Chair. Annie Jones is running for Chair.
  - 2. The motion to move to vote was moved, seconded, and approved. Officers were elected.
- C. Opening remarks by new officers
  - 1. Annie has several new ideas for the Commission. Goals for the upcoming year include:
    - Increase collaboration with other organizations with guest speakers to come each month.
    - Increase diversity across economic and racial communities.
    - Increase visibility in the community.
  - 2. Ron would like for everyone to update internal contact information that will be for commission use only.
  - 3. Jennifer would like to increase our visibility on social media to help spread word about Commission activities and items of interest.
  - 4. Comments by Jerry Donald. Councilman Donald would like to receive Commissioners' opinions on solar farms. To allow on farmland? How large? Ag organizations prefer not to have them. Moratorium extended on another 6 months unless the council develops a policy. In regards to solid waste, how do

we feel about solid waste in the County? Should FCSC take a stand on either issue?

- a. A short discussion followed. Joe Richardson, suggested considering a percentage of land that the owner owns. Councilman Donald says that can be tricky since some parcels are so large. Taxes are lower on ag land, which is why they are preferred. Should we give tax breaks on industrial zoned properties like East Alco? Should solar farms be 75 acres or less? Fenced? Trees? Viewshed? Elizabeth Peterson expressed concern with land use. Why use open land instead of on top of buildings? Like walmarts, Costco, etc.. Ron mentioned that it is more cost efficient to place panels on larger properties with greater density. What is the alternative when farmers want to sell land? Sell it to housing developers?
- b. Joe made a motion to discuss as a formal agenda item within a 2 month period. FCSC will make a statement, look at options, look at other jurisdictions. Council needs response in Sept/Oct. Tom seconds the motion that by October meeting we will have suggestions to provide. Motion approved by all.
- c. Solid Waste – Councilman Donald would like any individual contributions by email [jdonald@frederickcountymd.gov](mailto:jdonald@frederickcountymd.gov) Group Introductions

## **II. Vice Chair Items**

- A. Approval of June Minutes, moved by Tom, with a typo correction, and seconded by Ron. Minutes approved with one abstention.
- B. Action Items: See that section of the minutes.

## **III. Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) Update**

- A. Ron provided an update on the EPP study. Executive Gardener signed and approved our memorandum requesting permission to provide suggestions for EPP to the County on June 13, 2016.
- B. Local municipalities can latch onto larger state and county contracts to allow them to have better access to EPP.
- C. Ron reached out to Sustainable MD for suggestions. He'd be willing to work with FCSC on a workshop to provide suggestions and turn the memo into action.
- D. Annie provided information on next steps. Our goal is to put forth recommendations on how the county can develop basic policies. We'll provide a framework for the county to build on. Identify products as a starting point.
- E. Shannon Moore has pens and notebooks made of recycled materials as examples. Shannon will look into differences in costs.

#### **IV. Livable Frederick: Environment and Energy Work Group Update**

- A. Ron provided a workgroup update. Member of the workgroup include Ron, Kevin Sellner, Shannon, and members of her office with Kai Hagen and Richard Jeffries. Livable Frederick is a comprehensive community planning process looking at all aspects of livability. This work group is energy and environment. Yesterday discussed the visioning process for Livable Frederick. This is a two-year overall process, a few months in. Research efforts and assignments may come to larger FCSC group. Steering commission on Friday at 1:30, in Winchester Hall.
- B. Shannon indicated the group is looking at water supply, growing population, electric vehicles for the county, watersheds, forests, and tree canopy within the County.
- C. A discussion followed where Joe brought up concerns about immediate needs to make decisions about issues like solar panels. Ron responded that those issues are discussed early in the planning process. Shannon mentioned that tree conservation is to be discussed on August 5. Water resources on August 11. Ron mentioned GIS data stored by the County is impressive. Wealth of information to process and inform strategies.
- D. To date, there are approximately 1,000 responses to the sustainability survey. Particularly still need respondents from rural communities. Hoping to get to 2,000 respondents. Ideas to reach out to farming community through SCD, libraries in rural areas, religious organizations, homeowner associations.

#### **V. Sustainability Indicators**

- A. Annie expressed a goal to focus on one sustainability indicator for each meeting and have a guest speaker that ties in. This is a way to make incremental progress on making suggestions for sustainability goals in the county.
- B. Example, EPP effort is something we can take action on now.
- C. We have a previous set of sustainability indicators to be updated. Livable Frederick workgroups tie into the indicators. Look at how to tie them in together.

#### **VI. Planning for Fall Sustainability Commission Public Meeting**

- A. Tom provided update. Looking into venue. Need a decision on venue, date, and time. Next step is to identify speakers. We can use any County facility for free. Pinecliff park is a possibility. Kevin suggested that if we identify a topic, we can identify a time for that target audience.
- B. Free public event. Purpose to be a conference.
- C. Annie suggested partnering with another organization to make it a joint effort. Kevin can ask Center for Watershed Studies at Hood and maybe use their seminar room. Tom

had initially contacted Drew Ferrier but got no response. Kevin works with Drew and can help.

- D. Looking at last week in October.
- E. Alysia Freuer mentioned MD Green schools may be a good partnership. We can open the conference to parents, educators, etc..

## **VII. Whats Next/Food Waste Update**

- A. Joe Richardson update: Phase I has been submitted to the County Council and Executive. Looking at 3 bin recycling with composting. Phase II to identify consultants to provide cost estimates and look at resource recovery park. Veterans is a composting organization that has an interest in collecting compost. 33% of our trash is compostable materials. When organics are buried they create methane. We can market compostables instead. Goal is show schools that the cost is not more than sending to trash. Biggest volumes in restaurants and institutions. Need to find a place to take the material. Private-public partnerships an option. There is a tendency to overcomplicate the practice. Some practices more expensive than others. Doesn't have to be. Potential for pilots. The Steering Committee mandate is not to start pilots but to make recommendations.
- B. Joe asked for FCSC to take action. Steering committee believes FCSC should take the lead in fostering behavioral changes. Teaching people how to think about where their trash goes. Teach kids how to compost and three bin recycle. Joe is looking for paradigm shift. Why are we disposing of material that could be recycled or repurposed. Annie mentioned that Joe has the most expertise and FCSC is not as well equipped. FCSC can get behind goals but is not equipped to administer a pilot program. FCSC members don't have the technical background and are not in a position to pick a contractor, etc. Alysia Feuer mentioned that she has essentially instituted pilot at Yellow Springs. She could write a plan and lay out education through lunch and learn initiatives. But is there funding if she writes a proposal? Ron suggested we would need buy in from PTA, need parent involvement. Alysia believes long term sustainability lies with principal, teachers, and the custodial staff. Joe is hoping to provide bins to pilot schools this fall and get a program going. There are 78 green schools in Montgomery County. None in Frederick. Shannon noted that the County Executive weighed in on what she would like to see in the various phases. She is moving forward with Phase I recommendations and look at larger efforts, not focusing on the behavioral piece. We need a discussion with County Executive to determine what FCSC role should be. Annie suggested that FCSC develop criteria where schools can be leaders in food waste composting. At the next meeting FCSC will determine whether we have approval to take an active role in pursuing a pilot project. Develop a subcommittee to discuss and move forward.

## **VIII. OSER Updates**

- A. The Office of Economic Development just launched Homegrown Frederick website. OSER was featured in Frederick Magazine in regards to sustainability and cost efficiency. The OSER newsletter went out this morning.
- B. OSER is moving forward with large scale SWM retrofits and stream restoration projects. Losing Chesapeake conservation corps members, and new member starting. Just completed 200 page restoration plan for SWM in Frederick County. Frederick County is planning to comply with the MS4 permit 100%. The program is 100% funded through 2020.
- C. OSER met with Montgomery County staff to discuss the green homes challenge. They are considering replicating it for their jurisdiction. Power saver retrofit almost full.

## **IX. Commission Members Items of Interest:**

Annie – Frederick Urban design meeting is Wed July 27 at noon, at the civil war medicine museum. Farmer Mike of seeds of life is the guest speaker. He will share work that the nursery does.

Joe – Great article by Silvia on composting operation at Bar T. Sustainable building under construction with geothermal, etc. Constructed by end of August. Goal to house before and after school program in the building. Joe wants to reach out to senior population to come and be engaged in sustainability activities. He is hoping to institute multi-generational educational opportunities.

Mike – Looking to get ahold of Frank Taylor for Tiny Homes. May be good to invite zoning administrator when we discuss.

Kevin – Heavy algal blooms in upper Potomac. Quantifying biomass and looking for toxins from Whites Ferry up to Taylors Island. Algae is growing on streambed material. Proposal for Culler Lake was not funded. Lake Linganore and Anita Louise, studying WQ and toxic algae. This algae forms on plankton. HOA in Anita Louise looking for mitigation strategies.

Shannon – The President announced large solar initiative.

Ron – Attended electric vehicle conference in Baltimore. Topics on servicing low income and disadvantaged communities, charging, advisory session. Green teams – would like FCSC to reach out to green teams. Each member to attend a meeting once or twice a year. Stay in contact and see how we can help. Ron attending Frederick City approx. once a month. Contact sheet – fill out and make corrections, provide photos.

Jenn – looking for facebook activity and updates.

Tom – Interested in tree program, Solax, mentioned by Bob Black. Wrote nature notes article based on research.

## **X. Public Comments**

Walkersville staff and commission – Looking to be more sustainable as a community. Roadblock in trying to get people to volunteer for green teams. Advertising and developing a letter to send out. Looking into LED street lights, need funding. In reference to schools, its challenging to get staff participation, keeping them interested. Crayola has a program where they take any markers and recycle them.

Rich Maranto – Mike Judd hosting PawPaw fest in September 17. Populations declining in County.

### **Action Items:**

7-20-16. Councilman Donald asked FCSC to provide recommendations on Solar Farms by Sept/Oct.

7-20-16. FCSC will ask the County Executive about what she sees as our role in the Solid Waste initiative. Address in August 2016 meeting.

7-20-16. Three subworkgroups are needed and need volunteers: EPP, the Fall Event, and Solid Waste.

5-1-16. Sustainability Event in the fall. This would be a free meeting open to the public. It needs to be well planned three months in advance for October. Rachel will be on the work group with Tom.

10-10-15. FCSC committees: Invite community volunteers to join. We need to come up with an approach to accomplish this. Solicit comments from public on web site. A joint Commission mailbox is possible, but there are problems accessing it from Apple devices. Future agenda item.

10-8-15. County Green Teams: Need to assemble a comprehensive list that includes all municipalities with teams and contact information shown. FCSC to send a letter inviting liaisons from the teams to attend FCSC meetings. Ron K. has started a list and has been attending City of Frederick Green Team meetings. **Ongoing.**

10-4-15. Sustainability Plan: The Committee met on 12/18/15. A presentation by Dana French on mission and vision was held for the entire Commission at its January meeting. A followup session was held at the February meeting. Shannon will send FCSC members a link to the sustainably based American Planning Association document being used for the comprehensive plan process. Once the comp plan is completed, we will be able to call out the sustainability elements, which will then be assembled as our Sustainability Plan.

10-1-15. Focus areas for FY 2016: comprehensive planning and energy efficiency. There is now a committee to develop the Sustainability Plan, which will also work with the County's comprehensive planning process. Perhaps another committee to work on energy efficiency issues is also needed? We need to further define this in terms of outcomes as an agenda item to discuss how to move forward for a future meeting. We would need to bring in subject matter experts.

**Adjournment:** Following a motion, which was seconded and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm.